In re Patent Application of:
ROY ET AL.
Serial No. **10/777,731**
Filed: **FEBRUARY 12, 2004**
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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review of the current application. Claim 1 has been amended to address a minor informality helpfully pointed out by the Examiner. The amendment to Claim 1 does not narrow the scope of the claim for any reason relating to patentability. A terminal disclaimer is also enclosed to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In view of the arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art.

I. The Claimed Invention

The invention is directed to a communications system. For example, amended independent Claim 1 recites that the system comprises a plurality of data storage devices, each using at least one of a plurality of operating protocols, with at least one data storage device operating using multiple operating protocols. There are a plurality of mobile wireless communications devices for accessing the at least one data storage device and each using at least one of the plurality of operating protocols. Furthermore, a protocol interface device comprises a front-end proxy module for communicating with the plurality of mobile wireless communications devices using respective operating protocols. The protocol interface device further comprises a protocol engine module for communicating with the plurality of data storage devices using respective operating protocols, and selecting a desired operating protocol for

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communicating with the at least one data storage device from the multiple operating protocols.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to the protocol interface device as in Claim 1. Independent Claim 18 is directed to a protocol interface device for interfacing a plurality of communications devices with a plurality of data storage devices. Independent Claim 24 is directed to a method counterpart to Claim 12, and independent Claim 28 is directed to a corresponding computer readable medium to Claim 24.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 18, 24, and 28 as being anticipated by the Poor et al. patent. Poor et al. discloses an intermediate server or system having knowledge of application program protocols used by the application programs on a user's wireless device. The intermediate server receives information communicated from the device via a transport level protocol. This information is subsequently transmitted by the intermediate server, in accordance with the appropriate application program protocol, to a remote server or system that services the application or program in use by that person.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has mischaracterized Poor et al. The Examiner contends that the data storage devices **28, 30** (Fig. 1) each use multiple protocols. For support, the Examiner cites to paragraph [0026], which, rather than disclosing the ability of the data storage devices to each use multiple protocols, instead discusses a server configuration

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file associated with the intermediate server **12** and containing
the various protocols themselves (e.g. how to communicate with a
POP server).

Poor et al. fails to teach at least one data storage
device operating using multiple operating protocols. Likewise,
Poor et al. does not disclose selecting a desired operating
protocol for communicating with a data storage device from the
multiple operating protocols. While Poor et al. does teach
different servers each operating using different protocols (e.g.,
IMAP, POP) and a server configuration file containing database
entries for each protocol, this reference does not teach or
fairly suggest that any of these servers could or should use more
than one operating protocol. Likewise, Poor et al. does not teach
that the intermediate system could select which protocol it uses
to interface a given server that supports multiple protocols. In
sharp contrast, Poor et al. teaches the use of a user
configuration file containing user-entered data about which
protocol to use with which server.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claims 1,
12, 18, 24, and 28 are patentable over the prior art. Their
dependent claims, that recite yet further distinguishing features
of the invention are also patentable, and require no further
discussion herein.

In re Patent Application of:
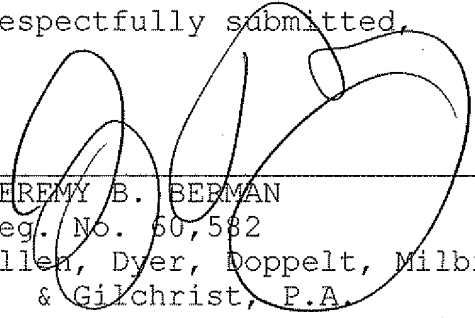**ROY ET AL.**
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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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